



RECEIVED

NOV 14 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Applicant(s): Matthew P. Scott, et al.

Atty. Docket No. **SUV-003.04**

#17
B

Serial No: 08/916,140

11-15-00
P.Z.

Filing Date: 21 August 1997

For: *Patched Genes and Uses Related Thereto*

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Certificate of First Class Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents; Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date set forth below.

By:

Robert King

Date of Signature and Mail Deposit

11/15/2000 PZIMMERM 00000007 061448 08916140

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT 01 FC:202

40.00 CH

Dear Sir/Madam:

In response to the Office Action dated June 8, 2000, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel all pending claims, without prejudice, and enter the following new claims:

Sub C'
B!
61. A method for identifying an agent for treating an animal having a disorder characterized by loss-of-function of a patched gene, comprising contacting one or more test agents with a cell that expresses a wild-type patched protein and identifying test agents that change the level of patched inhibited intracellular signal transduction relative to the absence of test agent, wherein agents that cause a decrease in patched inhibited signal transduction are useful for treating an animal having a disorder characterized by loss-of-function of a patched gene.